



▶ INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE
DISCUSSION AT RYERSON
UNIVERSITY.....2



▶ RYERSON STUDENTS IN
WASHINGTON DC.....3



▶ A RYERSON GRAD IN
SAUDI ARABIA.....4

The P.P.A *liticus*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RYERSON POLITICS AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ALUMNI

Janet Lum and the Canadian Research Network for Care in the Community (www.crncc.ca)

Conducting research in home and community care requires healthy doses of persistence and optimism. Here's why: Health is a big ticket item accounting for more than 40% of Ontario's budget. Of that, the largest chunk goes to doctors and hospitals while less than three percent goes directly to community service agencies that provide home and community care. Policy planners claim that a key reason for this paltry level of spending is the lack of solid evidence that investment in home and community care delivers measurable outcomes -- narratives and anecdotes are not enough. This imperative to come up with "solid evidence" as a basis for policy decisions is where Professor Janet Lum and her team come into the picture.

As the principal investigator of the Canadian Research Network for Care in the Community (CRNCC), her job (with Alvin Ying's considerable help) is to gather and synthesize the best available evidence, nationally and in-

ternationally, about home and community care, and to make it available to community end users and policy planners in a timely way. The CRNCC, funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council and Ryerson University, is a dynamic face-to-face and virtual network of over 500 national and international academic and community researchers, professional providers, community service providers, consumers, policy-analysts and students. Its key deliverables include research reports, *Backgrounders*, national/international symposia, and webcasts located in a virtual Knowledge Bank. Along the way, the CRNCC has explored timely topics such as sexuality and aging (e.g., older people are the fastest growing users of online dating and face rising incidences of STDs), health equity, elder abuse, informal caregiving, supportive housing, integrated care, chronic disease management, self-managed care, children and homecare, older person's mental health, and women and home care.



Dr Janet Lum

Lum's research and the work of her international partners draw similar conclusions. Health care is most effective in maintaining the well-being, independence and quality of life of older people when integrated with community care and managed around the needs of the individual. Furthermore, integrated care can make important contributions to sustaining the formal health care system by moderating demand for more costly acute and institutional care. Finally, home and community care (See page 2)



Goodbye and Thanks, Neil!

Tatiana Tupchy, Thomas Kais-Prial and Dawit Heilu presented Prof. Neil Thomlinson with a gift in honour of the end of his term as Chair of the Department.



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

can be a cost-effective substitute for hospital and institutional care when appropriately targeted, managed and integrated into the broader continuum of care. In short, Lum concludes that there *are* better ways to care for older people besides abandoning them to their own means, or warehousing them in institutions. Older people can be supported without bankrupting our publicly funded and overstretched healthcare system. Getting more of the budgetary pie will likely prove very difficult despite the research of her team. Clearly, more than “evidence” matters. ♣

Sexuality & Aging Symposium 2009

Back row from left: Devan Nambiar, Paul Williams, Merryn Gott, Bill Ryan, Michele Cauch

Front row from left: Michael Bauer, Lori Holloway Payne, Janet Lum, Peggy Brick



Nationhood and Identity: Indigenous Governance in a New Century (Pt 2)

The “Nationhood and Identity: Indigenous Governance in a New Century” series continued this winter with two sessions. Dr. Pam Palmater, Chair of Indigenous Governance and a member of the Department, acted as moderator for the four lectures. The first session was held in January on the theme of “Closing the Gap: Perspectives on Aboriginal Education.” The speakers were Calvin Helin, a member of the Gitlan Tribe of the Tsimshian Nation and the president of the

Native Investment and Trade Association. He asserted that Indian policy in Canada is an expensive, shameful failure. It has been harmful to the intended beneficiaries and infuriating to taxpayers. He discussed his proposal for a government-created Aboriginal Post-Secondary Savings Account to replace the current method of funding. (It was released by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute for Public Policy, “Free to Learn”) and offers an alternative to the status quo by directly empowering

Aboriginal students to help themselves. Chief Isadore Day, the Chief of Serpent River First Nation and also Lake Huron Regional Grand Chief of the Anishnawbek Nation, argued that post-secondary education is a treaty right protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and proposed that post-secondary education programs must be controlled by First Nations.

In March, the theme was “Nation Building: Practical Ways Forward.” The first speaker was Hayden King, an instructor in the Indigenous Studies Program at McMaster University and the CIBC Scholar-in-Residence with the Conference Board of Canada. He is a member of the Beausoleil First Nation on Chimnissing. He argued that the Canadian government should sign the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) so that the relationship between Canada and First Nations can move forward on a more equitable basis. The negotiation and implementation of UNDRIP would represent a significant Indigenous participation in global governance but Canada’s continued opposition to signing the declaration is a disappointing reflection of ongoing apathy and neglect. Chief Bill Montour, who was born and raised on the Six Nations of the Grand River and has served three consecutive terms as Chief of Six Nations, also spoke about the contribution Indigenous governance can make in improving the lives of Canada’s first people. ♣



The Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, PM from 2004-06, visited Ryerson U in January and met with Politics students. Left to right Andrew West, Rt Hon Paul Martin, Dan Lovell, Dawit Hailu.

POG499 in Washington D.C. BY ANDREW WEST AND JASON GROSSMAN

We have been given many great opportunities at Ryerson and one of the more valuable experiences has been to take POG499 and join a Penn State (Behrend College) class in Washington D.C. during the American spring break in March 2011.

While in Washington we visited almost all of famous landmarks: the Capitol, the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court and the White House. We talked to people who were part of the complex Washington policy making process: a Member of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, and a few lobbyists who have a much different perspective of American politics. We journeyed to the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, etc. One the highlights of the trip was to meet with Penn State alumni and discuss where a degree in political science can lead. It was a wonderful opportunity to see how our education differs from the American.

The experience was valuable because we witnessed the inner workings of the American government. To observe how government is conducted and where it is conducted was an eye-opening experience. It was also interesting to learn more about how the U.S. government was perceived by our fellow students from Penn State Behrend.

Dr. Robert Speel, our professor, planned out an enlightening itinerary that balanced experiencing the U.S. government, how people interact with it, and how it is covered by the media. To this end, we visited



Ryerson at the White House, 2nd from the right is Andrew West, 6th from the left is Jason Grossman.

C-SPAN (the public affairs cable channel) and a political consulting firm. They showed us just how much time and how many millions of dollars are spent on campaigning. It was amazing to see just how much of an industry elections are in the U.S. We also got to visit some Washington embassies including Canada's. Being there felt like being home for about an hour. Dr. Speel also did a great job of making sure Ryerson students were recognized by starting conversations that were relevant to Canadians with the guests we met. The Penn State students were receptive and loved the idea that Ryerson students joined them on the trip to share

what Washington had to offer.

POG499 is not all fun and field trips. We had to write two ten-page papers, take multiple quizzes and interact actively with the people we met in Washington so it did require a lot of work, but the knowledge and the experience we gained made it memorable.

Penn State Behrend students traditionally come to Ryerson to study, but this was the first year Ryerson students travelled to the U.S. capital. program. We hope that in the future more Ryerson students will take advantage of the program. ♣



Enjoy your administrative leave, Neil!

Faculty and staff in the Department also saluted the end of Neil Thomlinson's tenure as Chair of Politics and Public Administration in late June at The Rex Jazz and Blues Bar.

Standing behind Neil from right to left: John Shields, Patrice Dutil, Tracey Rainey, Duncan MacLellan, Phil Coppack.

The “Arab Spring” as seen from Saudi Arabia. BY BOBBY THOMAS CAMERON



has a large Shi'ite population that is apparently dissatisfied (KSA is predominantly Sunni). During the days I was there, Bahrain was in complete chaos. Since Dammam is connected to Bahrain by a bridge, they had heavy security everywhere and they would not let us cross the bridge into Bahrain (still we tried, no luck!).

Buraydah and Zilfi are most definitely the most conservative places I have been to, and I think quite possibly I was the first Westerner to ever step foot there. In Buraydah I rode a camel and horse (not really of my own free will), and ate A LOT of Capsa with my student's family (chicken, dove, lamb, and beef).

There has been quite a bit of excitement across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the Mid-East this winter and spring. Saudi Arabia was relatively stable, although the Canadian Embassy did issue an updated amendment to their country profile on the KSA. The King returned from the USA in February while most of the Middle East was — as it remains — in complete upheaval (Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Bahrain, and Yemen particularly).

In March there were gatherings of thousands of people outside my compound: A lot of flag waving as the King was expected to drive past. In fact two days were declared holidays to celebrate the King's return.

Bahrain was quite a surprise for us in the KSA. I had a friend who had went there when everything turned violent. Luckily he was fine, however he did get caught in the middle of a pro-Bahrain/Sunni protest.

In terms of politics, the city of Dammam was the main location for the protests which occurred in the KSA. It

In both Zilfi and Buraydah the people were extremely friendly and welcoming. They were very generous and wanted to make sure that I saw "the real" Saudi Arabia and what people "were really" like (they were afraid CNN had given me the wrong impression....). Generosity is really a big part of the Saudi /Muslim culture here and, especially when you are a foreigner to a town (be it Canadian or from another part of KSA) people will always try to make sure you feel welcomed. ♣

Bobby Thomas Cameron graduated from the MA program in Public Policy and Administration in 2010. He is finishing a year-long stint as an English Language Instructor at the Riyadh College of Technology in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He begins his PhD in Policy Studies at Ryerson in September, 2011.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

7th Floor Jorgenson Hall
350 Victoria Street
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3

Phone: 416-979-5000
Fax: 416-979-5289



PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL SO WE
CAN STAY IN TOUCH:
PPAALUMNI@POLITICS.RYERSON.CA

This issue of PPA*liticus* was produced
by

Karen Lee
Politics and Public Administration
OWSP Assistant
karen.lee@ryerson.ca

Editor: Dr. Patrice Dutil
Director, Undergraduate Studies
pdutil@politics.ryerson.ca

Dr. Neil Thomlinson is the
Chair of the Department of Politics
and Public Administration.
nthomlinson@politics.ryerson.ca

[WWW.RYERSON.CA/POLITICS/
ALUMNI](http://WWW.RYERSON.CA/POLITICS/ALUMNI)